

# Who Will the Republicans Name for President in the Next Battle?

Observer Puts General Wood and Senator Johnson in Class A After Getting Interviews From Leading Party Members Over the Country—Harding and Governor Lowden Close Up.

By A. H. VANDENBERG.

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If one hundred representatives of America, whom I have interviewed regarding 1920 eligible men as representative of the American public opinion, then the possible presidential possibilities in next year's mighty campaign fall in four classes in the following presidential order:

**Class A—** Maj. Gen. Leonard A. Wood, U. S. A.; Sen. Birney W. Johnson, California.

**Class B—** Senator Warren G. Harding, Ohio; Gov. Frank O. Lowden, Illinois; Ex-Pres. William H. Taft, Connecticut.

**Class C—** Sen. John C. Lodge, Massachusetts; Gen. John J. Pershing, U. S. A.; Sen. William E. Borah, Idaho; Sen. P. C. Knox, Pennsylvania.

**Class D—** Ex-Gov. Charles E. Hughes, New York; Sen. Irving Lenroot, Wisconsin.

I have listed these classes—and the order within each class—to reflect the number of times each of these names has been mentioned upon the various lists of "eligibles" which were submitted by the various distinguished Americans to whom my inquiries were addressed. There appears subsequently in this report a compilation of the names of persons mentioned in this referendum. It will be found sufficiently representative of high American public thought to make the poll's results a thoroughly substantial contribution to contemporary discussion and a speculation upon next year's republican prospects.

Wherever I have gone with this inquiry, there has been a universally announced opinion that no prophet can safely indicate, at this distance, what the 1920 Republican National Convention will do. Never, in recent years, has there been more uncertainty over political probabilities. It is generally conceded that developments in the last six months may order next year's politics in totally unexpected directions. It is generally agreed that Congress, in its present and next sessions, may prove to be a forum in which presidential hopes may crystallize to an automatically commanding degree. Much water will run under the bridges before another Republican National Convention calls the nation's roll. But everywhere—upon almost every tongue—is a present inquiry as to what the future has in store in terms of political possibilities. Everywhere doubts are rampant. It was to gauge present opinions upon future possibilities that I went to these one hundred representative Americans for an expression, and it is the result of that referendum which is here set down.

Opinions are chiefly valuable, in an instance like this, because of their source. Therefore, probably the first record should indicate who participated in this poll. Happily, I am able to quote many names. In a majority of instances, the opinions were given after an agreement that they should remain anonymous. But the names that can be given are an exact criterion of the class of names which comprise the entire catalog. The total list of 100 represents every state in the union and every classification of men. It draws upon soldiers and civilians alike. Here are some of the names of some of the distinguished Americans who have been interviewed and whose lists of "eligibles" have figured in the presidential arithmetic which is here presented.

Governor Percival W. Clement, Vermont; ex-Governor Samuel W. McCall, Massachusetts; Governor Samuel R. McElveen, Nebraska; United States Senator Arthur Capen, Kansas; ex-United States Senator William Alder Smith, Michigan; Clifford Pinchot, Pennsylvania; Representative George H. Cannon, Illinois; Governor Carl E. Milliken, Maine; Governor Henry J. Allen, Kansas; Col. Frederick M. Alger, Detroit, Michigan; Governor Robert D. Carey, Wyoming; James R. Fagan, president First National bank, Chicago, Illinois; President Ernest M. Hopkins, Dartmouth college, New Hampshire; Governor Lynn J. Frazier, North Dakota; Governor Thomas C. Campbell, Arizona; Governor W. L. Harding, Iowa; Hon. Newton A. Budge, formerly chairman, New Jersey republican state central committee; ex-Governor Chase S. Osborn, Michigan; Hon. George A. Bacon, chairman, Massachusetts republican state central committee; ex-Senator George Sutherland, ex-president American Bar association, Utica; Clinton Rogers Woodruff, Philadelphia, secretary national municipal league, etc., etc.

It is to this class of representative Americans—one hundred of them—to whom I went with this question: "Who in your present judgment are republican presidential eligibles for the nomination?"

It is a report upon these answers which follows.

The two outstanding republicans who interlock on these lists most generally are the two who are accordingly set down in "Class A" among the "runners": Major-General Leonard A. Wood and United States Senator Birney W. Johnson of California. We appeared on lists 100 and Johnson on 51 lists. They are distanced all others. Furthermore, their support came from various sections of the nation. It was not a "spotted" support. In several instances, there was a refusal to name anybody at all as eligible except Wood. For instance, when Senator McMillan of Maine said to me in typical fashion:

"I am in the position of the school boy who was asked to write a composition of fifty words. The boy produced this: 'I went to the dog and called him, Kitz, Kitz, Kitz—until the fifty words were used.' In the same spirit, Senator Johnson said to me: 'Leonard Wood, Leonard Wood, Leonard Wood—such the list has been exhausted.'

It is interesting in this connection to note that General Pershing was named on 22 lists—putting him into "Class C" in this theoretical deadly race—but that the strong congressional support accorded him by the military candidate is to be elevated. Major-General Wood has the unique honor inside (rank). It might be felt, in this connection, to disregard the fact that this same result is shown among many polls that have been indicated taken by returning soldiers at New York prior to the election.

Senator Johnson's name was upon every list, with but one exception,

which came from the far west, and upon almost half of the lists from the central west. Meanwhile he made a substantial showing in the east as well, several men interviewed naming him as a possible presidential possibility.

Mr. Taft's support was quite generally centered in the east. Most of the poll was taken, however, prior to the record he makes for himself during the next 12 months at Washington. He has the opportunity," said one, "to absolutely cement to himself the republican leadership. He will either make himself the unapproachable presidential favorite during the next 12 months or he will put himself completely out of the running. There will be no holding the ground."

Senator Johnson's runner-up among his own colleagues in the upper house is Senator Warren G. Harding, Ohio, who appears on 41 lists, while his fellow senatorial colleague, the phenomenon—frequently challenging the conjectures of political doctoress—is the fact that Senator Harding and Senator John Nance appear on the same lists together.

Senator Harding leads the "Class B" league, hard pressed by Governor Lowden of Illinois, who appears on 43 lists and by ex-President William H. Taft, who appears on 49 lists. In this connection it may be interesting to note, in passing, that several of the men who participated in this poll gratuitously suggested that Governor Lowden would make a corking republican nomination for vice-president, and incidentally seven of these "runners" with the same thing for Mayor "Ole" Hanson of Seattle, Wash.

In three instances, Governor Lowden was the sole "eligible" named.

According to the poll, four republicans rank themselves in "Class C" so far as this particular recognition of their 1920 republican presidential availability is concerned. These four are Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, who appears on 27 lists; General John J. Pershing, who appears on 22 lists; United States Senator William E. Borah of Idaho, who appears on 29 lists, and United States Senator Philander C. Knox of Pennsylvania, who appears on 19 lists.

Then comes "Class D"—so far as this particular poll indicates composite eligibility—with ex-Governor Hughes of New York and Senator Irving Lenroot of Wisconsin trotting an even keel with 12 nominators each to their individual credit.

Beyond these names there is a wide field and a correspondingly wide range of candidates proposed. President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia university, New York—the man who was eliminated as the presidential candidate for vice-president when James R. Sherman died in the second Taft campaign—leads this particular field. He has several staunch proponents. For example,

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Governor Clement of Vermont rests his whole check upon Butler with no alternatives.

The other two leaders, after Butler, in this field are Hon. Elihu Root of Chicago, ex-Senator John W. Weeks of Massachusetts, ex-Senator Albert J. Beveridge of Indiana, Dan'l. W. Miller of Baltimore, Maryland, and Senator Reed Smoot of Utah; President Warren G. Harding, and Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska.

All of the following "eligibles" appear at least once in this field:

Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis of Chicago, ex-Senator John W. Weeks of Massachusetts, ex-Senator Albert J. Beveridge of Indiana, Dan'l. W. Miller of Baltimore, Maryland, and Senator Reed Smoot of Utah; President Warren G. Harding, and Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska.

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